(d) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India accorded *'in-principle'* approval to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project outline in August, 2007 which envisages *inter-alia* Project Development Work for implementation through Public Private Partnership of world class infrastructure in the region including road transport connectivity. A Central Special Purpose Vehicle named DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC) has been incorporated in January, 2008 and the corporation has appointed an International consultant for preparation of Detailed Perspective Plan for overall DMIC Region with pre-feasibility studies which includes road linkages to be developed in the region.

(c) Yes, Sir. M/s Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), a Government of Gujarat entity has forwarded a proposal for augmentation of roads in Gujarat in the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor. DMICDC has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with GIDB in July 2008 to facilitate development of select early bird projects.

(d) DMICDC has since then selected an International Consultant for preparation of Development Plan for the identified Investment Region in the State of Gujarat.

Overall industrial growth

467. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial growth of 11.2 per cent registered in 2006-07, has also been maintained during 2007-08;

(b) if so, whether capital goods sector – which makes equipment that other sectors use, grew by only 2.1 per cent in January, 2008;

(c) the percentage growth achieved by intermediate goods and consumer goods during 2007-08 in comparison to the percentage growth during 2006-07; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve over-all industrial growth and the projections for 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The industrial growth, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), in 2006-07 was 11.6% and it was 8.3% during 2007-08.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The growth recorded by the intermediate goods and consumer goods sectors, in terms of IIP, during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given below:

Growth Rate (in %)

Sector/Industry	2006-07	2007-08
Intermediate goods	12.0	8.9
Consumer goods	10.1	6.1

(d) No target growth rate has been set for the industry for 2008-09. However, the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) envisages an industrial growth of 10% per annum on an average.

The Government has put in place various policy measures to promote broad based industrial growth, which includes, *inter-alia*, de-licensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc. In the Budget 2008-09, the Government has also reduced the excise duty across the board from 16% to 14% to boost the domestic demand for the manufacturing industry.

Import of edible oil

468. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to import larger quantity of edible oil during the current year because of mismatch between the demand and supply of edible oil likely to be five million tonnes; and

(b) the details of quantity of edible oil, Government is going to import during the current year including steps taken to control the day-by-day rise in its prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In order to provide relief to the poorer sections of the society, from the rising prices of edible oil, the Central Government has introduced a scheme for distribution of 10 lakh tones of imported edible oils in 2008-09 at a subsidy of Rs. 15 per kg., through State Government/ Union Territories at the rate of 1 kg. per Ration Card per month.

The net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources during the year November 2007 - October 2008 is estimated at 84.92 lakh tones and the import of edible oils is estimated at 49.03 lakh tones. The excess demand of edible oils is met through imports.

Import of palm oil

469. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Competent Authority had allowed the import of palm oil for the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of palm oil imported, the agencies that are granted permission for the same, countries from which it is imported and the quantity distributed in each State for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the above import had affected the price of coconut oil and the prices of coconut;

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to protect the prices of coconut oil and coconut; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?